

# Public Education in Los Altos Hills

*The Public Education Committee (PEC) of the Town of Los Altos Hills*

*March 2004*

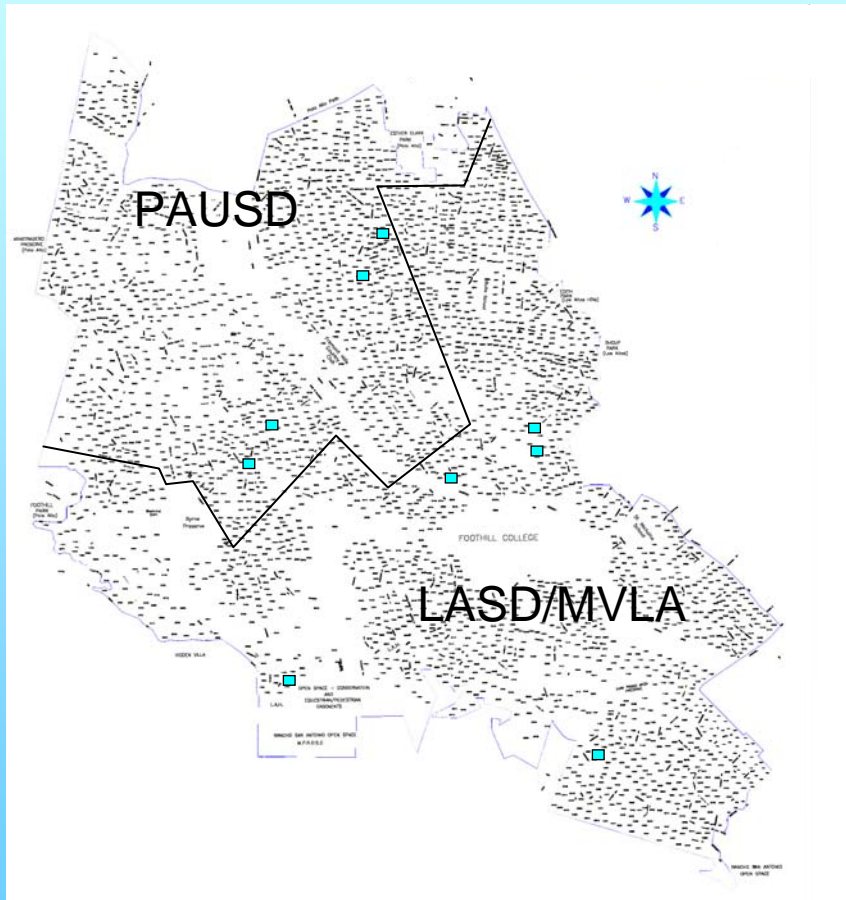
# PEC's charge is to act objectively and carefully

- Study the subject and survey the town
- Develop scenarios that would provide a neighborhood school within LAH
- Develop those which make the most economic and political sense
- Provide findings to the Town Council

# For the purposes of this presentation...

- “Neighborhood” schools refers to elementary school sites within the borders of LAH
- “Redistricting” refers to the transfer of a greater portion of LAH to one of its serving districts or the formation of a new LAH district
- “New district” refers to a separate district made up of *most to all* of LAH, perhaps including certain other property contiguous to it

# LAH is split between districts



- The districts have the education of our children in mind but...
- Not enough LAH students are in any one district
- Result: no schools in LAH

# Where Have We Been?

1963

**Four public schools west of Foothill  
Expressway serving LAH**

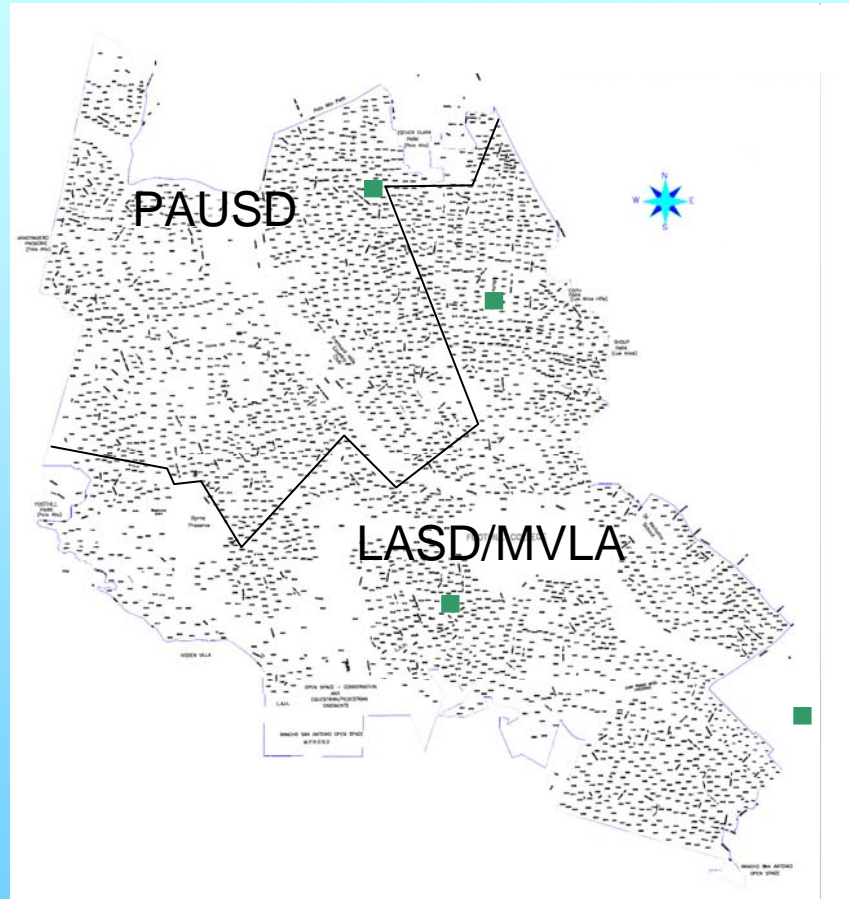
Fremont Hills - PAUSD

Purissima - LASD

Eastbrook - LASD

Bullis - LASD

# LAH was served by 4 schools



# What happened?

- Fremont Hills closed in 1976 - now leased by PAUSD for \$950k/year
- Purissima closed in 1976 - sold by LASD, complete housing development
- Eastbrook closed in late 70's - fields sold by LASD in 1986, buildings leased
- Bullis closed in 2003 - vacant

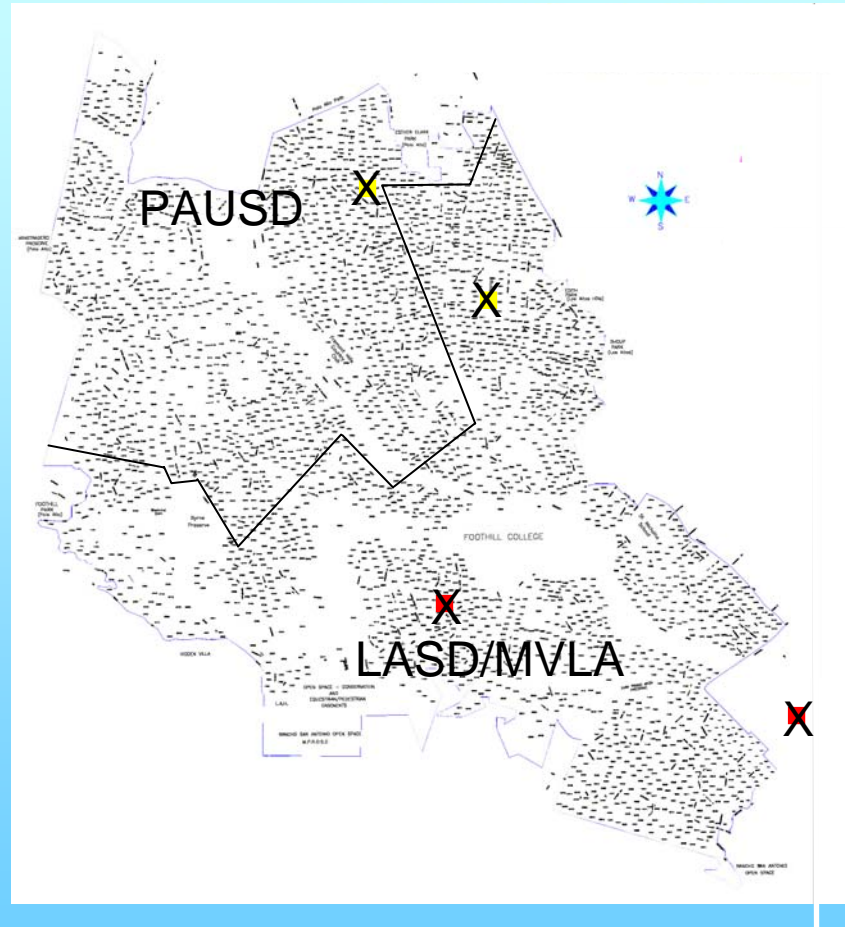
Where are we now?

2003

No public schools in LAH



# All LAH schools have been closed



# What have we lost?

Our Sense of Community...

- Neighborhood Schools
  - Every student now has a significant commute
  - Increased congestion/hazards around schools
  - PAUSD bus ride can exceed 45 minutes

# What have we lost?

Our Sense of Community...

- Neighborhood Schools
  - Parents pay for PAUSD busses - \$600 for the first child, \$190 for the second child/year
  - Busses cost \$90 more than for PA residents
    - Palo Altans pay \$510 for the first child
  - Parent participation suffers - PTA, classroom volunteers, special committees, fundraisers, ...energy, support.

# What have we lost?

Our Sense of Community...

- School neighborhoods
  - More difficult for children to recognize and associate with their neighbors
  - Difficult to make associations and much harder to build long-term relationships
  - Parents no longer associate daily nor meet as regularly as in the past

# LAH parents feel disenfranchised

- Spread across multiple districts, there is no consideration of LAH as a neighborhood
- Four (4) LAH schools have been closed
- LASD bond issue was supported for specific Bullis improvements that are now moot
- PAUSD parents must pay for bussing *and* pay more than PA residents
- “Got milked” campaign has many adherents

# Neighborhood schools are the issue

We want to ...

- Consider the welfare of students first
- Increase a sense of community within LAH
- Work toward a district recognizing LAH as a community in its own right

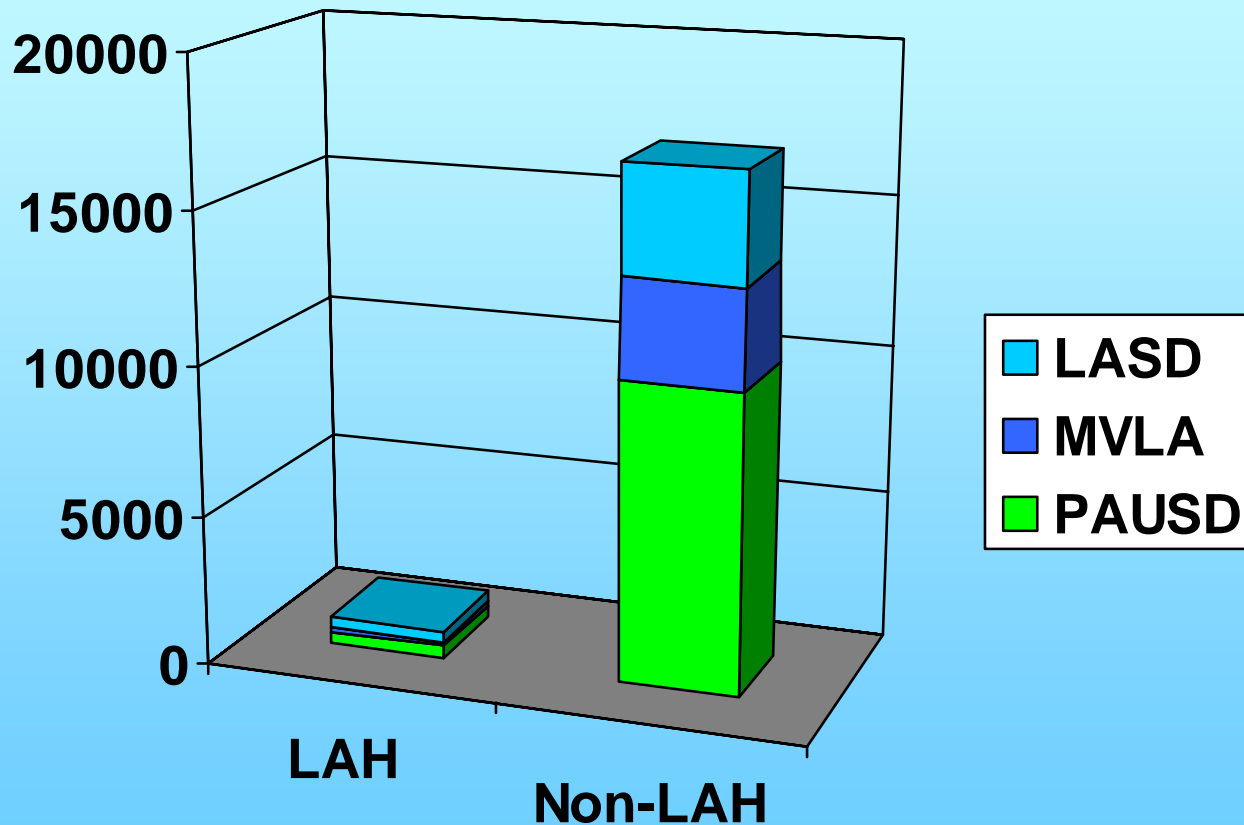
# Taking a look at the data

Scenarios will either pass or fail based on economics...

- Purchased Tax Rate Area (TRA) data
- Mapped data onto LAH
- Obtained residence, school, and grade data from LASD and MVLA districts
- Developed above for PAUSD from school directories

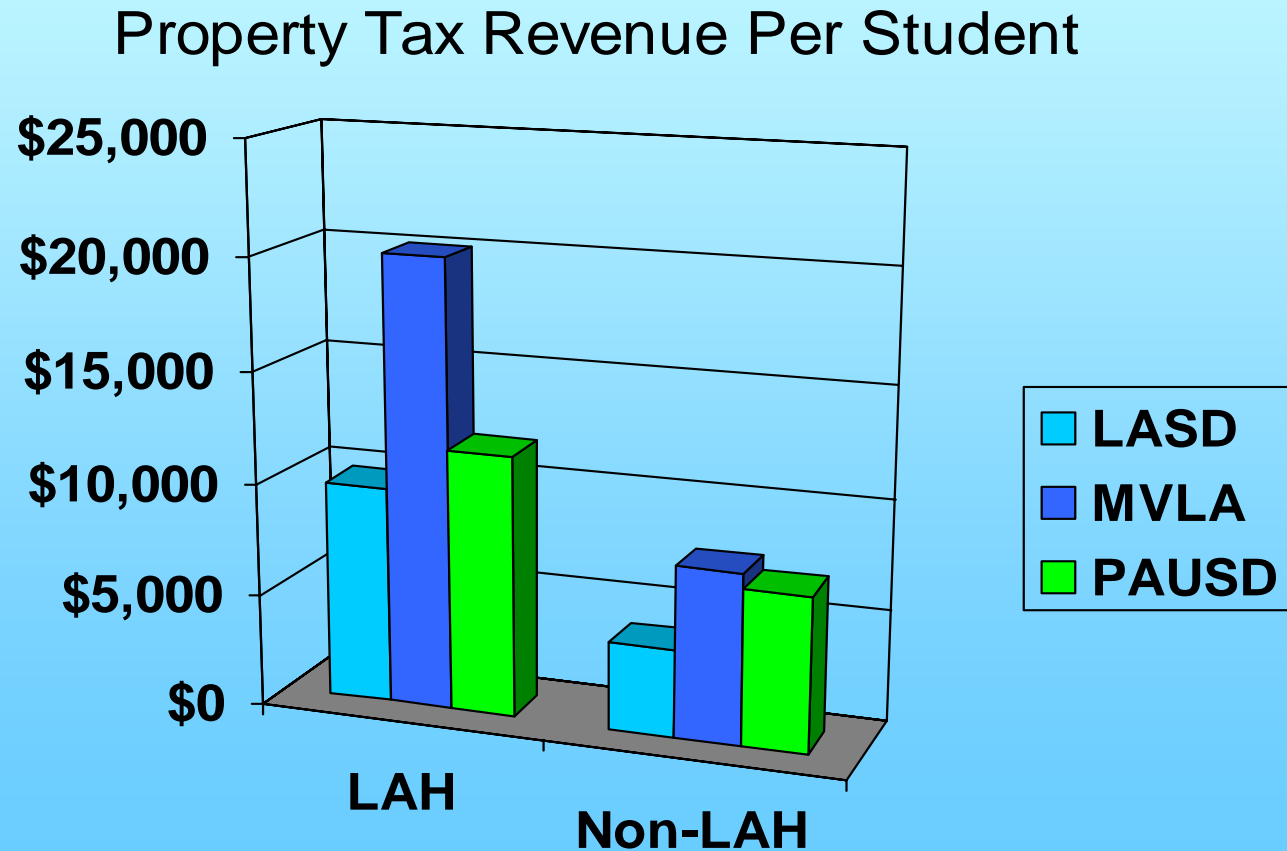
# Student Populations

Students per District



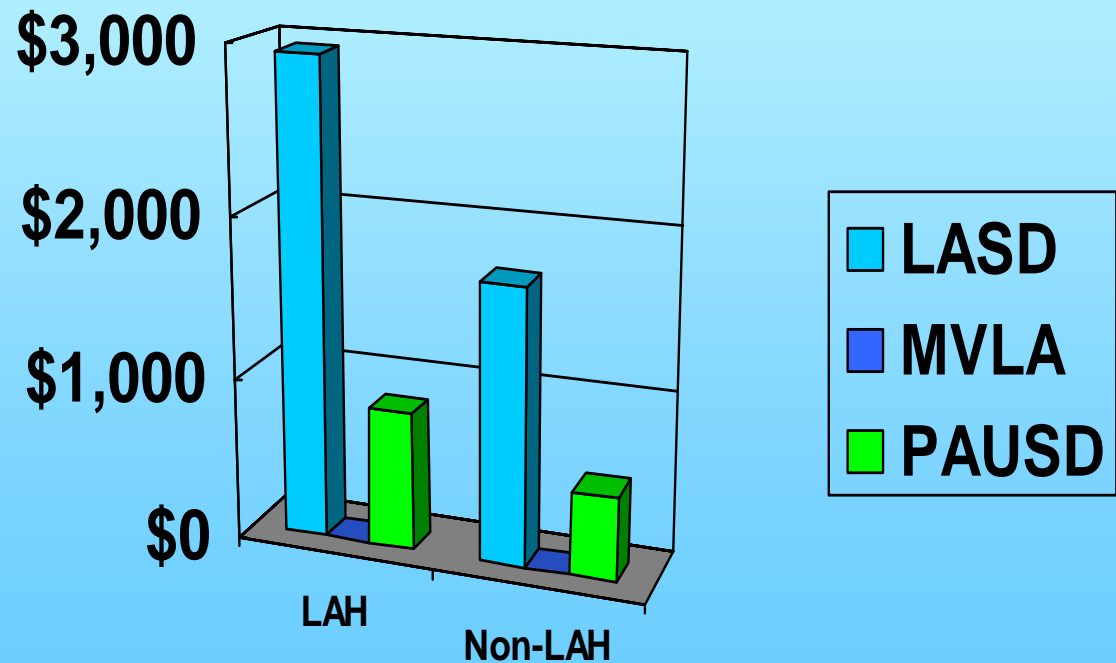


# We provide much higher property tax revenues than non-LAH communities



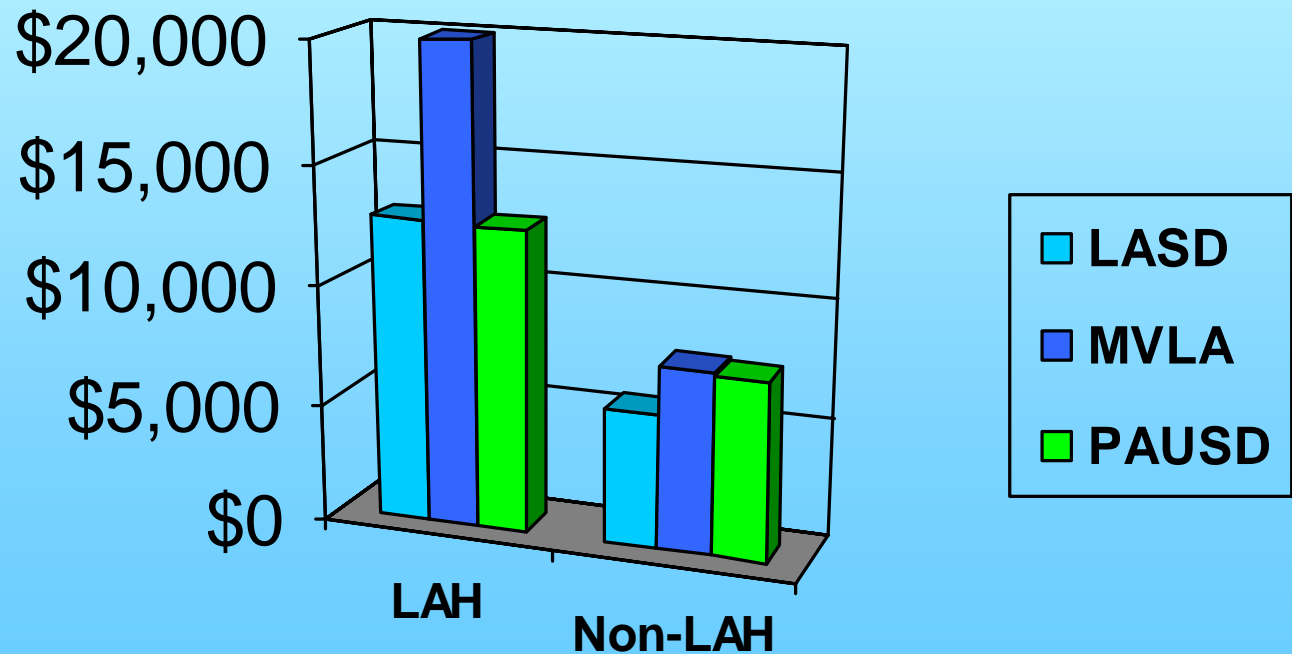
# LAH provides higher average parcel tax revenues to districts

Parcel Tax Dollars per Student



# LAH provides substantially more comparative revenues to districts

Total Taxes Paid Per Student



# We need to choose between...

- Accepting circumstances as they are
- Proactively working to provide neighborhood, elementary schools  
...change the map

# There are three major alternatives for providing neighborhood schools

- Expand the area of LAH served to obtain local economies of scale
- Support the creation of a charter school within LAH
- Form a new district

# There are 2 scenarios for expansion of LAH area served by a district

- ➔ LASD/MVLA takes over more of LAH
- ➔ PAUSD takes over more of LAH
- Boundaries need to be determined for each alternative
- These will be the focus of our meetings with the districts

# PEC would like to work with districts to see what it would take to...

- Keep student welfare as the major consideration
- Understand economic & demographic considerations in opening LAH schools
- Expand area of LAH served to obtain local economies of scale

# There are 2 scenarios for a charter school within LAH

- By joint cooperation in conjunction with...
  - ➔ LASD
  - ➔ PAUSD
- Locating Bullis Charter School outside LAH does not solve the problem
- We view these as a subset of working with our existing districts



# The Ed Code establishes minimum ADA hurdles for district formation

Forming a separate LAH school district

- 901 students for K-8 LAH: 639 public + 401 private, 1040 total
- 301 students for 9-12 LAH: 304 public + 218 private, 522 total
- 1501 students for K-12 LAH: 943 public + 619 private, 1562 total

# Forming a K-5 or K-6 “feeder” district is problematic

- PAUSD is unified K-12 and LASD is unified K-8
- LAH K-5 or K-6 options would require transfers that are not allowed
- LAH K-8 with a transfer into MVLA would be allowed, technically ...boundaries need to be determined

# An LAH K-12 may be possible

- Does not have the “feeder” issues but...
- requires waiver from 1501 target and/or...
- recruiting many private school students and/or aligning with another district

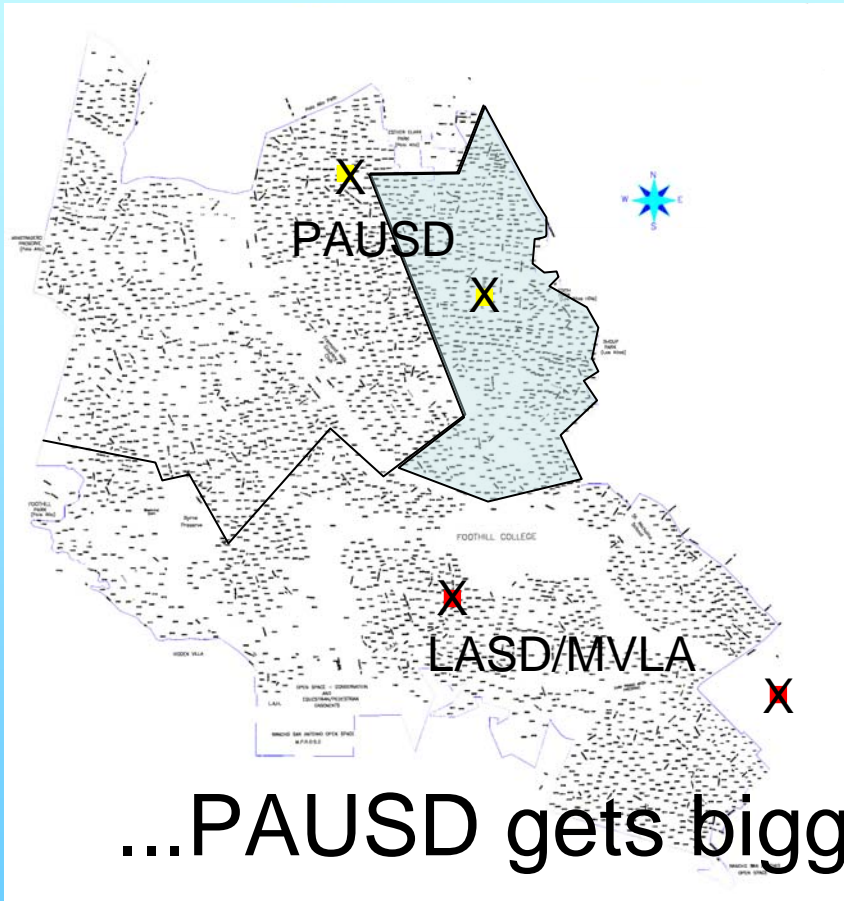
# Private school numbers are not well defined yet...

Grades	Public	Known Private	Estimated Private	Totals
K-5	327	104	273	602
6-8	254	42	110	365
K-6	393	125	328	723
7-8	188	21	55	244
9-12	351	94	247	600
Totals	932	240	630	1562

# There are 4 possible map changes

- LAH K-8 (901 students) + MVLA 9-12
- LAH K-12 (1501 students)
- LASD/MVLA takes over more of LAH
- PAUSD takes over more of LAH

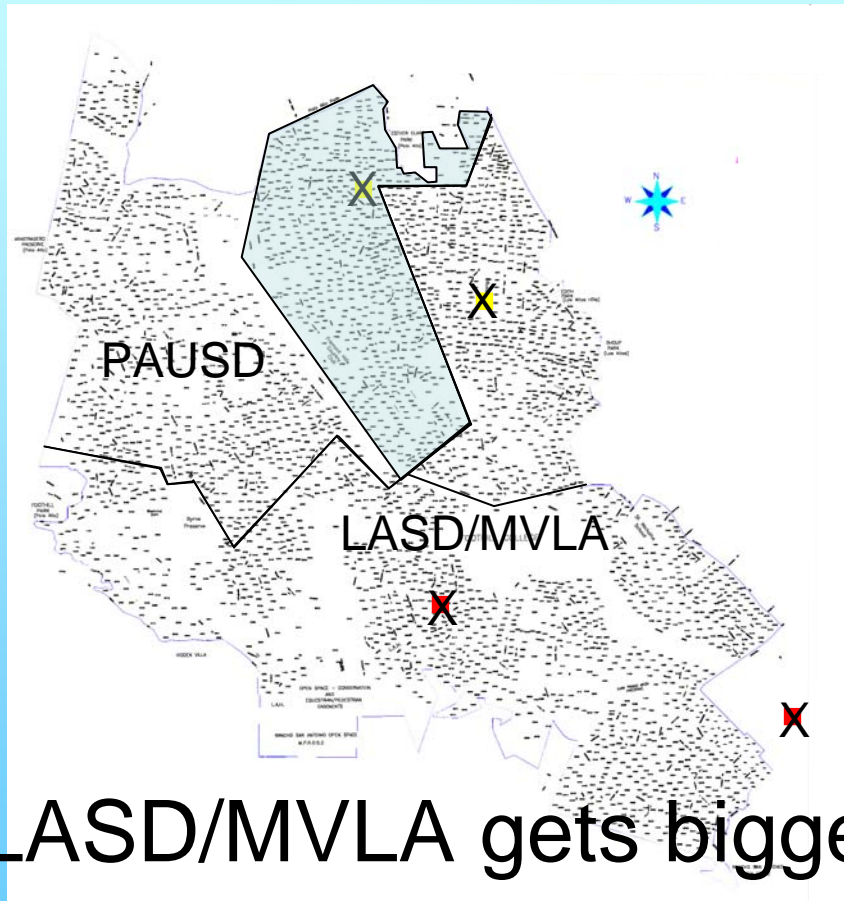
# The map can change in a number of ways...



Grade	Number of students now	New Students	Total
K-5	119	84	203
6-8	95	68	163
9-12	203	55	258
Totals	417	207	624

Property Tax	Tax \$\$\$\$ / Student
\$2,151,809	\$10,395

# The map can change in a number of ways...



...LASD/MVLA gets bigger

(and LASD becomes Basic Aid)

Grade	Number of students now	New Students	Total
K-6	250	69	319
7-8	117	31	148
9-12	148	65	213
Totals	515	165	680

Property Tax	Tax \$\$\$\$ / Student
\$1,789,860	\$10,848

The map can change in a number  
of ways....  
Either district gets LAH.

Grade	Number of students now	New Students	Total Students	Additional Property Taxes	Additional \$ / student
PAUSD					
K-8	214	367	581	\$6,711,182	\$13,031
9-12	203	148	351		
Totals	417	515	932		
LASD / MVLA					
K-8	367	214	581	\$4,919,060	\$11,796
9-12	148	203	351		
Totals	515	417	932		



Do you want to have a  
neighborhood school?

... meaning an elementary school(s)  
within the borders of LAH

Should we try to realign the map  
to provide more territory to  
PAUSD or LASD/MVLA?

...with some guarantee of an elementary  
school within LAH in some timeframe

Should we create our own K-8 or  
K-12 school district?

# Should we do nothing special?

No realignment, work within the  
existing alignment....

# Public Forum

- Questions, suggestions, and comments - preference cards
- 2 more opportunities.... Tues & Wed, March 23 & 24th @ Town Hall
- State your name, street, town
- 3-minute limit

# Thank you!

- Check the LAH web site for copies of the overheads -

[www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/volunteer/pec.html](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/volunteer/pec.html)

- Tell your neighbors about the upcoming public meeting -

Wednesday, March 24th @ Town Hall

# Public Education Committee

## Background Information

[www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/volunteer/pec.html](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/volunteer/pec.html)

# The PEC was established by the LAH Town Council

- One of 9 standing committees within LAH
- Formed on August 07, 2003 (LAH Res # 58-03)
- Staffed by 11 citizen volunteers with a council member acting as liaison
- Members serve a term of four (4) years



# PEC members represent a cross-section of the LAH constituency

- No more than 3 members can have both a child between 4 and 12 and be residents of old Bullis elementary boundary
- All jurisdictions are represented - PAUSD, LASD, MVLA
- With and without school-age children
- Pro-charter, private school, and public school views are represented

# PEC's charge is to act objectively and carefully

- Survey the citizens to measure their desires and support for any required ballot measures
- Draw reasonable conclusions in the best interest of our students